

## ATTACHMENT 1

### Expectations for FY07 CWA Section 106 Grants

The final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act (guidance) was published on October 20, 2006. It will apply to all water quality program grants issued by EPA Regional offices beginning fiscal year 2007. The guidance is intended to help tribal water quality program managers, staff, and other tribal environmental decision makers design and implement effective water quality programs. The guidance establishes procedures and guidelines—including reporting requirements—for EPA Regions to consider when awarding and administering grants to federally recognized tribes. It also establishes data management expectations for all tribal programs. Data collected as a result of the reporting requirements will help EPA measure environmental results and comply with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and other federal mandates. A copy of the guidance, Federal Register Notice, Response to Comments document, etc., can be found at the following website.

<http://www.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/106tgg07.htm>

Many of you took the opportunity to jump start your work plans with the new requirements in FY-06, and we thank you. The guidance is effective with the FY 2007 funding allocation (i.e., for funds that are allocated by Congress during the period from October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007). We are, once again, not accepting Special Study Proposals. As funds allow, EPA will continue to shift grantees to the federal fiscal year. Grant funds not obligated at the end of your budget period will be considered available for other regional needs.

Tribal Environmental Directors have repeatedly expressed concerns in ROC meetings about the lengthy work plan approval process. We pledge to do our part to ensure timely review of the work plans, but conversely, we ask that all requirements of the RFP are met, and that revised work plans or requested information be returned to EPA in a timely manner. Refer to Attachment 2 for important timelines.

We are requesting a 12 month work plan, budget detail, sampling and analysis plan, monitoring strategy and assessment plan, and a list of last year's program accomplishments **by January 19, 2007**. Refer to Attachment 3 for specific information and format requirements.

Grantees must comply with EPA Order 5700.7 (Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements). The Order is designed to align the Agency's strategic goals and objectives with work plan components and revamp grant reporting requirements to reflect environmental results. The work plan instructions (Attachment 3) suggest ways to identify expected environmental results in the work you expect to do.

Accountability is still a major driving force behind the Government Accounting Office (GAO) and Congressional inquiries. We need to work together to ensure that tribal reports and work plans need to show incremental progress each year. Working in partnership, EPA and the tribes will collaborate to ensure that incremental progress